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## UK Export Finance Boosts Yorkshire Firms Globally

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UK Export Finance (UKEF) is playing a vital role in helping businesses across Yorkshire expand their reach on the international stage. Although its headquarters are in London, the organisation's focus extends to companies in Batley, Barnsley, and numerous towns and villages across the region, supporting them as they make their mark worldwide.

Led by a former banker, UKEF functions as the UK's official export credit agency and a government department working closely with the Department for Business and Trade. Its primary mission is to ensure that viable UK exports are not hindered by a lack of finance or insurance from private markets.

In the 2024-25 financial year, UKEF provided a record £14.5 billion in loans, guarantees, and insurance. This support has helped sustain tens of thousands of jobs nationwide. According to the agency's latest annual report, it offered the highest level of backing in its 106-year history to assist 667 UK businesses in entering and growing within international markets.

Established in 1919, UKEF operates on a principle of no net cost to the taxpayer while enabling UK exporters to compete effectively overseas. By mitigating financial risks and offering tailored solutions, the agency helps companies in sectors ranging from manufacturing to technology to access new customers and opportunities abroad.

For Yorkshire-based firms, this support has proven particularly valuable. Businesses in the region have been able to secure financing for export contracts, protect against non-payment risks, and obtain insurance that private providers may not offer. These measures have paved the way for increased exports, helping local economies thrive.

UKEF's involvement often bridges gaps that commercial lenders hesitate to fill due to the complexity or scale of export deals. By stepping in, the agency provides businesses with the confidence to pursue growth in competitive overseas markets.

Looking ahead, UKEF aims to continue its strong support for regional exporters, including those in Yorkshire. Its work aligns with broader government objectives to boost UK trade and strengthen economic resilience.

This ongoing commitment offers Yorkshire firms vital tools to navigate global markets, creating jobs and growth opportunities across the region.